



**U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2021

Contact: Office of Public Affairs
202-514-6551

Inmate Death at USP McCreary

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Thursday, December 17, 2020, inmate Richard L. Blanchard Sr. tested positive for COVID-19 at the United States Penitentiary (USP) McCreary in Pine Knot, Kentucky, and was placed in medical isolation. Institution medical staff monitored Mr. Blanchard's condition and provided treatment. On Wednesday, December 30, 2020, in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, Mr. Blanchard was converted to a status of recovered, following the completion of medical isolation and presenting with no symptoms.

On Tuesday, January 19, 2021, Mr. Blanchard displayed signs of respiratory distress and became unresponsive. Life saving measures were initiated and Mr. Blanchard was transported to a local hospital. Subsequently, Mr. Blanchard, who had pre-existing medical conditions which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by hospital staff.

Mr. Blanchard was a 74-year-old male who was sentenced in the District of Washington, D.C. to a term of Life for Assault with Intent to Kill, Possession of a Firearm during a Crime of Violence, Carrying a Pistol without a License, and Murder II while Armed. Mr. Blanchard had been in custody at USP McCreary since November 19, 2015.

USP McCreary is a high security facility that currently houses 1,332 male offenders.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp.

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at www.bop.gov.

###